

WEATHER.

Fair tonight and Tuesday, with slowly rising temperature Tuesday; moderate west winds.

FULL REPORT ON PAGE FOURTEEN

No. 19,521.

WASHINGTON, D. C., MONDAY, MARCH 9, 1914.—EIGHTEEN PAGES.

About every one in Washington who reads at all reads The Star.

CLOSING NEW YORK STOCK QUOTATIONS PAGE 14

ONE CENT.

THIRTY-THREE LIVES MAY BE HERE'S TOLL

Six Men Known to Be Dead and Twenty-Seven Missing in St. Louis Blaze.

THIRTY RECEIVE INJURIES; PROPERTY LOSS, \$350,000

Missouri Athletic Club Building Is Destroyed—Thousands Witness Spectacular Escapes.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., March 9.—Six men were killed, about twenty-seven are unaccounted for and about thirty were injured in a fire that destroyed the seven-story building of the Missouri Athletic Club today. Three dead are unidentified.

The property loss was more than \$350,000.

The fire, which broke out about 2 o'clock this morning, was still burning at noon, and Fire Chief Swingle said it would be unsafe to send any one into the ruins to search for the missing until tonight or tomorrow.

Much Money in Bank Vaults.

The building was owned by the Boatmen's Bank, which occupied part of the first floor. The bank opened temporary quarters this morning in a building four blocks away. In the vaults of the burned building, bank officials said, were \$1,349,000 in currency and \$27,000 in gold.

Uncertainty as to the number of men in the building when the fire broke out made it difficult to determine the exact number of missing. Jack Reisinger, night clerk at the club, said forty-five members had rooms at the club, and that the registration of guests during the total number for the night to seventy-five. Some of the regular guests, however, had left their rooms in their rooms when the fire broke out.

The fire was believed to have started on the third floor, on which the dining room was located. On this floor, one man was found dead. The two others known dead jumped from a sixth-story window.

The death of Joseph Chasnov of St. Joseph, Mo., advertising manager for the St. Louis Republic, was confirmed by Ernest Evans, who roomed with Chasnov. Evans said he lost track of him in the confusion.

The Known Dead.

Those known to be dead are:

C. F. Kessler, forty-nine, general manager of Ludlow-Saylor Wire Company, St. Louis, killed in jump from sixth floor.

John Martin Rieley, forty, of St. Paul, found burned to death on third floor.

James Riley, fifty-five, a guest at the club.

The List of Missing.

Those who are missing:

James McGinnis and Allen Dow, buyers for large St. Louis department store.

Bert Corcoran, sales manager, Western Electric Company, St. Louis.

Allen Hancock, typewriter salesman.

William E. Becker, president of paint company.

John Retz, president of plumbing company.

William J. Kinser, president of construction company.

Thomas R. Shyne, Syracuse, N. Y., sales manager, Underwood Typewriter Company.

George Goerner, president commission company.

Daniel Weatherly, salesman, wholesale dry goods company.

Thomas Wright, secretary of the Apollo Club.

William Erd, real estate dealer, East St. Louis, Ill.

J. H. Hadden, manager department store.

R. C. Chesley, L. A. Tilly, L. R. Ruff, W. C. Smith, W. C. Humble, D. E. Fitzgerald, Springfield, Mo.

Marshall Bern, local fur dealer.

E. E. Chasnov, St. Joseph, Mo., advertising manager for the St. Louis Republic.

Frank W. Albright, traveling salesman.

E. P. Williams, New York, traveling salesman.

Robt. Green, Herrin, Ill.

A. J. Odegard, agent, Railway Supply Company.

Jennings, non-resident member of Missouri Athletic Club.

McKenna, guest of Jennings.

Purges, guest of Jennings.

Names of the Injured.

The injured follow:

Theodore Levy, thirty-four, Louisville, salesman, both legs injured and left foot crushed.

U. M. Stott, forty-six, St. Louis, left hip fractured, internal injuries.

Ben F. Williams, forty, left leg fractured, internal injuries, in serious condition, salesman.

J. C. Holmes, forty-two, Macomb, Miss.

L. L. Leonard, forty-one, lawyer, jumped, ribs fractured, feet crushed, hurt internally.

Lee Wolf, thirty-four, merchant at Carrothersville, Mo., contusions and possible fracture of spine in fall from second floor of fire escape.

David Blum, forty-three, purchasing agent for department store, right foot fractured in fall from rope made of sheets.

A. J. Harned, thirty-six, Chicago, superintendent of an electrical supply company, right arm and right ankle fractured in jump from sixth floor.

Edward T. Kaab, thirty-six, Chicago, salesman, bruised, rescued by firemen from sixth-floor window.

William Koerner, twenty-six, houseman at Missouri Athletic Club, both feet fractured in jumping from sixth floor to roof of four-story building.

F. W. Williams, New York, hands burned and head bruised.

G. Little, Chicago, knee wrenched.

Lee Walsh.

Charles Schmel, forty-one, Chicago, both legs broken and internally injured in twenty-five-foot leap from sixth floor.

John Dwyer, engine company No. 6, right leg fractured, caught under falling wall.

Dozen Jump Several Stories.

When the firemen arrived, a few minutes after the blaze was discovered, the flames were shooting out of the roof.

(Continued on Eighth Page.)

EDGATE CONGRESS AS TO D. C. NEEDS

Plan Along Which Committee of One Hundred Proposes to Work.

TO MAP OUT DETAILS AT MEETING TONIGHT

Members of Executive Committee Called to Assemble in Chairman Macfarland's Office.

A meeting of the executive committee of the citizens' committee of one hundred is to be held at 8 o'clock tonight in the office of Henry B. F. Macfarland, suite 901, the Evans building, New York avenue near the corner of 15th street northwest. At the meeting a definite program of action is to be mapped out, and the report of the executive committee is to be presented at the adjourned meeting of the committee of one hundred, to be held at 5 o'clock Wednesday afternoon at the New Willard Hotel.

The ten members of the executive committee were selected today at a conference at the office of Dr. Harvey W. Wiley in the Woodward building, between Dr. Wiley, who is chairman of the larger committee, and Mr. Macfarland, who is assisting in the work of planning the activities of the committee. Those chosen as members of the executive committee are:

Executive Committee Members.

Henry B. F. Macfarland, chairman; Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, ex officio; Alexander Graham Bell, Charles S. Bundy, John W. Foster, M. A. Leese, A. Lisner, Clarence J. Owens, Mrs. Wallace Radcliffe, Miss Janet E. Richards, Charles W. Richardson, Thomas W. Sidel, Col. George S. Truesdell and Brainard H. Warner.

That educational methods are to be adopted in bringing members of Congress to a realization of conditions in the District of Columbia, and to an understanding of the needs and requirements of the National Capital was the declaration of Dr. Wiley, Mr. Macfarland and the members of the committee today. Many members of the House and Senate, Mr. Macfarland said, have only the slightest knowledge of conditions in the District and of the complicated requirements that exist here to a far greater degree than is true of any other city in the United States. Many members of both branches of Congress have never gone over to the federal government, and the relative small remainder, little to which is vented in private individuals, which, in the half-and-half plan of raising revenues for conducting the affairs of the District should be abolished, would be required to contribute practically all of the revenues, in the form of taxes, with which to improve and beautify the capital of the nation, as well as to finance the District government.

Tours of District Planned.

It is the purpose of the committee, according to Mr. Macfarland and Dr. Wiley, to show such members of Congress just how much there is to the District of Columbia; just how much of it belongs to the federal government, and how much is therefore exempt from taxation, and just how much remains on which private owners are required to pay taxes. Tours of the city and its environs are to be made, with members of both houses of Congress, during which the effort is to be made to show such members the utter impracticability of the property-owning taxpayers of the District to contribute revenues sufficient to develop Washington in a manner commensurate with its importance and dignity as the capital of the United States. It is believed that the members of the big committee that by this plan, tactfully followed, and by the elimination of the tax burden, would be able to show to the members of Congress, and completely detailed plans will be ready for presentation at the meeting of the main committee Wednesday afternoon.

WANT ENCAMPMENT HERE

Three Big Civic Bodies Take Steps to Obtain G. A. R. Meet in 1915.

In connection with the idea of obtaining for Washington the national encampment of the G. A. R., the Board of Trade, Chamber of Commerce and Retail Merchants' Association have each appointed a special committee to co-operate in the matter. A joint meeting of these bodies is expected at an early date for thorough discussion of the matter. The committees are as follows:

Board of Trade—John Joy Edson, J. Harry Cunningham and William H. Singleton.

Chamber of Commerce—B. W. Guy, Dr. J. C. Holmes and Ralph Lee.

Retail Merchants' Association—Joseph A. Berberich, George S. De Neale and A. D. Prince.

At the meeting today of the executive committee of the Board of Trade it was stated the lowest sum that would have to be raised to insure the success of the encampment would be \$25,000. Atlantic City wants the encampment, and in case it is decided on, it will cost the city a state appropriation for the purpose. It is waiting to hear the decision of the District of Columbia before going ahead with its plans.

\$20,000,000 CUT FOR NAVY.

Japanese Premier Protests That National Defense Will Be Weakened.

TOKIO, Japan, March 9.—A recommendation to reduce the Japanese naval estimates by the sum of \$20,000,000 was carried by the budget committee of the upper house of parliament today. This was done in spite of the protest of the premier, who expressed the opinion that such a diminution would seriously hamper the national defenses.

Today's proposed reduction was in addition to the eleven-million-dollar curtailment of the naval estimates by the lower house.

FINANCIAL HEARING FINANCIAL LOAN SHARKS

Plans for Trials of Companies Charged With Exacting Illegal Interest.

SPECIAL JURY LIKELY FOR CONTINUOUS DUTY

Amendment of the Law Proposed. Statement by the Chairman of Citizens' Committee.

With evidence on file involving nearly all "loan shark" companies in the District of Columbia, the office of the corporation counsel of the District today put the finishing touches on its plans for commencing in Police Court Wednesday active prosecution of companies charged with having exacted interest in excess of the rate of 1 per cent a month allowed by law.

It became known today that request will be made for the empaneling of a special jury to try the "loan shark" cases. If this plan is followed the jury will remain continuously in session and the docket will be cleaned up as rapidly as possible.

To assist George R. Taggart, representative of the corporation counsel's office in charge of Police Court prosecutions, in the handling of the "loan shark" cases one or more of the assistant corporation counsel will be assigned to Police Court. The selection will fall upon R. L. Williams, Roger J. Whitford or Francis H. Stephens.

Corporation Counsel Conrad H. Syme has issued instructions to have jail sentences asked for in all cases in which the defendants have failed to settle notes on a 75 per cent basis, without interest, as required by law, when effort has been made to collect illegal interest.

Effort to Amend the Law.

With the District's legal department endeavoring to enforce the present law, members of the citizens' loan committee, backed up by the District Commissioners, are putting forth every effort to have the law amended so as to provide for an increase in the amount of interest that may be charged from 1 to 1½ per cent a month.

A bill designed to accomplish this purpose, which was recommended by the committee, was sent to Congress by the Commissioners Saturday. The committee consists of William H. Baldwin, chairman; S. Wilson, secretary; William F. Gude, Cuno H. Rudolph, Mrs. Richard Walworth, Mrs. Archibald Hopkins, Emmet Adams, Evan H. Tucker, Walter S. Uford, Dr. George M. Kober, Rev. John Van Schaick, Jr., Will Eymon, E. H. Thomas, Henry L. West, John D. Colpoys, Henry C. Gause and Henry White.

As has been pointed out, the passage of the present "loan shark" law, though the fixing of the interest rate at 1 per cent was without the committee's consent.

Statement by Committee.

Concerning the enforcement of this law, the committee, through its chairman, has issued the following statement:

Although for the last three weeks Mr. Stephen M. Worwood and Mr. Williams, the assistants of the corporation counsel, have been doing all they could, and working overtime, to assist those who are in the grasp of the loan sharks, and have made the law plain to great numbers of the citizens of the District, it is probable that only a small portion of those affected have come to the attention of the law. The corporation counsel's assistants may be somewhat relieved from the work of giving more time for pushing the necessary prosecutions, and that some of those who have gone to them may be still further assisted in their claims for repayment.

It is hoped that by this means the corporation counsel's assistants may be somewhat relieved from the work of giving more time for pushing the necessary prosecutions, and that some of those who have gone to them may be still further assisted in their claims for repayment.

"The citizens' committee finds that many of them, if not all of them, still have the notion that the law is still in force, and that they are reaping all the harvest without reaching from the unlawful business of the past year. They are all the more in need of the spirit of the law. One poor woman, who had been informed as to the law, was required to pay back three-fourths of the amount of the loan, and she did this because of the fear of consequences if she refused.

Interpretation of the Law.

"Recognizing the bitter injustice of such continued impositions, and feeling some responsibility in the matter, the citizens' committee desire to join in making it plain to all, every borrower, against whom any loan shark has any claim for money borrowed at more than the lawful rate, that the present law took effect on March 1, 1914, that:

"He need only pay back three-fourths of the amount of the loan, and he need not pay any interest whatever.

"This is what the law says, in Section 1: 'Any person contracting, directly or indirectly, for or receiving a greater rate of interest than that allowed by law, shall be deemed to have contracted for or received; and in addition thereto shall forfeit to the borrower a sum of money to be deducted from the amount due for principal, equal to one-fourth of the principal sum.'

The law, therefore, cancels for the borrower that much of the obligation, just as completely as if he had been paid cash, and the borrower only owes three-fourths of what he received. The lender has no right to claim the principal or any interest at all, for the borrower need not owe it. The law plainly made charging such rates as have been charged criminal, and one-fourth of the principal as part of the punishment, to help make the law effective, and to prevent such loans for unlawful gain took the chances, just as if they had taken money from the pockets of the borrowers, that they had no right to claim, and those who refuse to pay back more than three-fourths of the principal, and simply helping to enforce the law, as the corporation counsel is when he prosecutes the offenders, and when he enforces the law in addition.

Pay Only When Principal Is Due.

"Moreover, he need not pay this until it is due under his contract, nor must the matter be settled now under the law, if for any reason it is difficult or impossible for the borrower to raise enough money to pay back three-fourths of the principal, he can make the payments as required until they nearly equal three-fourths of the principal, and then tender the remainder.

The citizens' committee realizes, how-

UNION STATION PLAZA TO BE MADE A LAWN

Engineer Commissioner Harding Decides on Grass Instead of Pavement.

MAKE A SUGGESTION.

Instructions for completing the long-delayed improvement of Union station plaza were issued today by Engineer Commissioner Harding.

Grass seed is to be sown in the uncovered expanse in front of the station. For the present the plan of paving the plaza will be abandoned.

For months the engineer's department of the District has been undecided as to what method of improving the approach to the big terminal building should be adopted, and the advice of the fine arts commission was asked.

Ground Has to Settle.

It was pointed out that the delay was not a serious matter, inasmuch as it was necessary that the ground should settle before any plan of treatment was agreed upon.

Indecision in favor of grass rather than paving the department believes that it has adopted a plan which not only will be more attractive in appearance but will make the approach to the station a cooler place in summer.

C. B. Hunt, engineer of highways and bridges, and the superintendent of trees and parkings, have been expected to take charge of the work. They expect to have it completed by April 15. The plaza covers an area of 6,000 square yards, 5,000 of which will be sown in grass seed. Brick or cement pavements will cover the remainder.

To Fly American Flag.

The Commissioners, it is announced, have delegated the orders of Sons of Veterans to arrange for the display of an American flag from the center flagpole in front of the station. No appropriation has been made by which the District authorities can maintain a flag in front of the station, and when the Sons of Veterans applied recently for permission to look after this feature it was readily granted.

Soldiers and Police in Readiness.

The entire garrison and police force were kept in readiness. Besides these there were several regiments were brought in from the provinces. Every strategic point in the city was occupied with soldiers and squadrons of cavalry patrolled the main thoroughfares.

Much inconvenience was caused to numerous tourists owing to the lack of public conveyances. Several parties hired private carriages and automobiles to proceed to the Vatican for an audience with the Pope. They were hissed and threatened by the crowds of union sympathizers as they passed through the streets.

WANT AID OF THE SOUTH.

Woman Suffragists Planning for a Widespread Campaign.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., March 9.—The first of a series of conferences to further the cause of woman suffrage throughout the south was begun here today. Meetings are in charge of the executive committee of the National Association of Suffrage, headed by Miss Jane Addams of Chicago.

Today's program began with an informal conference between members of the executive committee and Alabama suffrage leaders. Members of the committee later were guests at a luncheon tendered by the local chamber of commerce. Two mass meetings, at which Miss Addams and other national leaders were to speak, are planned for tonight.

Further conferences and public meetings are to be held here tomorrow, after which the national executive committee will leave for Atlanta.

PERSONAL TAX INQUIRY ENDS THIS AFTERNOON

Appeals Believed to Have Outnumbered Those of Any Previous Year.

RECORD OF APPEALS.

While the exact number of appeals heard has not been ascertained, the number is said to be the largest of any previous year. Notices were sent to about 15,000 owners who failed to submit schedules of their goods. It is estimated that half of these persons appeared to protest against the assessments made by the board of personal tax appraisers.

Each case was decided at the time protest was made, and in many instances the assessment was changed.

Under the law, owners of personal property are required to make returns on their holdings on or before July 31. When this is not done the board of personal tax appraisers is authorized to

make assessments from the best obtainable information, to which is added a penalty of 20 per cent.

Increase in the Levy.

What the amount of this year's personal tax levy will be has not yet been ascertained. The assessment last year was \$1,106,055.39. It is estimated that the new levy may show an increase of about \$100,000.

The period for appeals on real estate assessments will close on the first Monday in June.

AGREES TO SEE SUFFRAGETTES.

Sir Edward Carson Takes Precaution to Avoid Bodily Injury.

LONDON, March 9.—Sir Edward Carson, leader of the Ulster unionists in the fight against home rule, today, surrendered to the militant suffragettes for several days. They had announced that they were determined to see him and obtain from him a promise of woman suffrage in case the north of Ireland should receive a government of its own.

Sir Edward has been ill, but had recovered sufficiently today to attend parliament. Rather than risk bodily injury at the hands of the suffragette pickets, he sent out word at noon that he would receive the deputations before leaving for the house of commons.

He explained his well-known views in regard to the George bill.

Critiques Personnel of Committee.

Ben Johnson said that the committee of 100, which met Thursday in the red room of the Willard, is made up of the men whose stocks and bonds would be taxed by the George bill.

He also made a point of saying that an effort is being made to show that the committee represents 50,000 owners of humble homes. In sarcastic vein he painted the members of the committee as being very rich, meeting at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when no humble house owner could possibly be present, and to make them appear as rich as possible, he declared that some of them had lunched at the Willard, and then, with a Willard menu in his hand, sketched out a lunch from consommé to allegator, from the cream, which would have cost \$7.25. The lunch sounded so good that Representative Hughes of West Virginia jumped up and took the menu card to read, amid laughter, just as Ben Johnson said it down.

Mr. Johnson took exception to a cartoon from the Times portraying ten members of the District committee, who voted for the Prouty amendment as blackheads.

"These represent the men," he said, "who stood up and voted for the proposition to place the taxes in the District where they belong."

Representative Huntington Moore of Pennsylvania interrupted Mr. Johnson.

"Did the gentleman give the complete list of names at that committee meeting?" he asked.

"I understand that former Senator Blackwell made an address," replied Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Moore also called attention to the fact that the hotel is full of democrats all the time, and, with suppressed humor, claimed that the great leader of "the House democrats" had been seen at the hotel since the time he was elected.

He declared that he felt complimented to know that the committee had taken the real estate transaction, which covers the principles of real estate consideration.

Mr. Johnson commented upon the action of the committee of one hundred in deciding that members of Congress should be taxed by individuals of the country on the bill to increase taxes on homes. He declared that he felt complimented to know that the committee had taken the real estate transaction, which covers the principles of real estate consideration.

Mr. Johnson read the names of some people who, he said, are not taxed on stocks and bonds owned by them. He charged that this non-taxation was based on the burden placed upon the smaller homes.

"I shall not return to my people and tell them that because I have been seen I had voted against a measure for larger taxation."

Representative Dyer asked if such property as Mr. Johnson wishes to reach would be assessed on the basis of the value of the property.

(Continued on Second Page.)

WARPER ACCUSED BY BEN JOHNSON

Declares in House Local Real Estate Man Offered Him a "Thinly Disguised Bribe."

DECLARES "AVENUES OF GRAFT" WERE SHOWN HIM

Target of Charges Denies Ever Discussing Any Deals With District Committee Head.

Ben Johnson, chairman of the House District committee, made a sensational attack on the floor of the House today that Brainard H. Warner of this city had offered him a "thinly disguised bribe." Chairman Johnson took the opportunity to make this charge just as the House had assembled in full numbers, following a call for a quorum, in connection with an article from the Washington Herald of March 1, which stated that Mr. Warner had called a meeting of a committee of 100 citizens for the purpose of having Mr. Johnson removed from the head of the District committee.

Mr. Johnson claims that B. H. Warner had come to the District committee room in the House office building with an ex-member of the committee, had made a great deal of money by tying up to Mr. Warner. This, Mr. Johnson told the House, was a "thinly disguised bribe."

Directs Attention to Article.

Mr. Johnson directed attention to the article in the Washington Herald stating that B. H. Warner was to call a meeting of a committee of 100 to remove Mr. Johnson as chairman of the District committee.

"This has been widely quoted," he said, "and further stated that the inference is that he had been dishonest."

"I purpose showing you that this man offered me a thinly disguised bribe."

"He came to my office, and in the presence of an ex-member of the District committee, who came with him, and my secretary, J. Rogers Gore, he said I was in the way of some of his real estate projects, and went on to say that he would like to have me removed from the office, and that the ex-member, because of the co-operation, had made large sums of money."

Showing Him "Avenues of Graft."

"He showed me the great avenues of graft around this city," he told me how the money had been obtained from this real estate schemes, and how the ex-member, without putting up any money, had divided a big profit."

Representative Johnson said the conversation had ended right there. He said he, Senator James and Speaker Clegg had talked the matter over, and had decided that the money should be given to the members of the House because it might blacken the character of an innocent man.

"I said to him, 'You have been called by a "self-admitted corrupter,"' and he said, 'I am not a corrupter, but I am a politician, and I am going to stay in the House because it might blacken the character of an innocent man.'"

"Chairman Johnson then took up the Prouty amendment, and there is a systematized misrepresentation going on here on the part of the press. I would like to show you what the amendment will do."

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